

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2825

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2150

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CI, US
SUBJ: POSSIBILITY OF ADMITTING CHILEANS UNDER PAROLE PROGRAM

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS ONLY

REF: SANTIAGO 753

1. GAYNOR JACOBSON, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN COUNCIL OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES AND LEADER IN AREA OF INTERNATIONAL RESETTLEMENT OF JEWS, HAS JUST CONCLUDED VISIT TO SANTIAGO, IN COURSE OF WHICH HE INFORMED ME THAT HE THOUGHT DEPARTMENT'S CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS REGARDING A POSSIBLE PAROLE PROGRAM FOR CHILEANS HAD BEEN SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED. JACOBSON SAID CONGRESSMEN RODINO AND EILBERG OF JUDICIARY COMMITTEE WERE ON BOARD, BUT DID NOT MENTION SENATE SIDE. SAID NO PROBLEM WAS EXPECTED IN OBTAINING ATTORNEY GERNERAL'S APPROVAL.

2. IF JACOBSON'S STATUS REPORT IS CORRECT, YOU WILL KNOW BEST HOW TO TIME ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT IN RELATION TO SECRETARY'S TRIP, WHETHER OR NOT HE COMES TO CHILE. I MIGHT RECALL THAT GOC ORIGINALLY TOOK RATHER DIM VIEW OF COUNTRIES WILLING TO ACCEPT ANTI-JUNTA CHILEANS, IN PART BECAUSE THOSE SAME GOVERNMENTS WERE LEADING THE ANTI-JUNTA CAMPAIGN. MORE RECENTLY, HOWEVER, AS GOC HAS COME TO APPRECIATE DESIRABILITY OF DIVESTING ITSELF OF ITS THOUSANDS OF INTERNAL SECURITY DETAINEES, AND AS COUNTRIES OF

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RECEPTION HAVE BECOME INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO OVERLOAD THEM-

SELVES, CHILEAN ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED. MINISTER OF INTERIOR
BENAVIDES HAS TOLD ME (SANTIAGO 753) GOC WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION
IF USG WERE TO RECEIVE A LIMITED NUMBER.

3. WHILE THIS MAY BE THE OFFICIAL POSITION, I WOULD
GUESS THAT A CHANGE IN OUR POLICY WOULD AT LEAST IN SOME
QUARTERS BE READ AS ANOTHER EVIDENCE OF OUR "SOFTNESS
TOWARDS COMMUNISM." AT A RECENT SOCIAL GATHERING, ON THE
OTHER HAND, ONE CHILEAN INTERESTED IN FINDING FOREIGN
HAVENS FOR DETAINEES SAID HE HOPED THE US WOULD ADOPT A CHILEAN
REFUGEE PROGRAM SO THAT IT COULD BE SAID THAT "EVEN THE UNITED
STATES" WAS TAKING THEM.

4. A US PROGRAM WOULD BE A PERFECTLY LEGITIMATE HUMANITARIAN
STEP IN IT OWN TERMS, AND AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF IMPLICITLY
DEMONSTRATING OUR DISAPPROVAL OF THE GOC'S INTERNAL
SECURITY EXCESSES. THIS WOULD BE ALL THE MORE
TRUE IF DISSIDENTS IN CHILE WERE INCLUDED AS WELL AS
REFUGEES NOW LIVING IN ARGENTINA AND PERU, AND I
WOULD RECOMMEND THAT, ON A PROPERLY SELECTIVE BASIS, THIS SHOULD
BE THE CASE.

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